# Financial Aid News



Issue 13 — January 10, 2003

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## Legislative update

Washington's 58th Legislature convenes Jan. 13

The Legislature convenes in Olympia on Monday for a planned 105-day session. Starting with this issue, the Financial Aid News will bring you weekly updates about legislative activities concerning financial aid and higher education. Look for it in your inbox on Friday afternoons.

As a reminder, the legislative environment can change quickly. We'll endeavor to keep you up to date at the time of press. Veteran Hill watchers caution that, because of the state's fiscal crisis, we can expect this to be a long session with plenty of twists before lawmakers finish their work.

Each week, we'll include a list of upcoming hearings that might interest you. Starting next week, we'll provide a chart tracking the progress of legislation related to financial aid and select higher education issues. Below you will also find some Web sites for tracking and analyzing legislation. Of course, if you have questions about legislation, please call us at (360) 753-7850.

Online resources for tracking and analyzing legislation

There are a variety of legislative resources on the Internet at the following Web addresses:

Full text of bills and supporting materials:	http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/bills.cfm
Complete legislative hearing schedule:	http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/calendar.cfm
Live and archived Web broadcast of all hearings:	http://www.tvw.org



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## Hearings on financial aid and higher education issues — Jan. 13 – 19

#### Monday, Jan. 13, 2003

Senate Higher Education Committee, 1:30 p.m., Senate Hearing Room 3 Work Session:

- Committee organization and committee policies.
- Introductory presentations by higher education organizations, including SBCTC;
   HECB; COP; Office of the Governor; Washington Student Lobby, WAICU and others.

House Education Committee, 1:30 p.m., House Hearing Room A Public Hearing:

- Introduction of committee members.
- Introduction and session priorities of education agencies and organizations.

## Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2003

House Higher Education Committee, 10 a.m., HHR

Work Session:

- Presentation of governor's 2003-05 Budget Proposal.
- Response by agencies and institutions.

## Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2003

House Education Committee, 8 a.m., HHR A (TVW)

Work Session:

- Washington participation in "No Child Left Behind Act of 2001."
- Results of interim survey on student assessments and the certificate of mastery.

House Higher Education Committee, 1:30 p.m., HHR D

Work Session:

- Continuation of responses to the governor's budget proposal.
- Enrollment overview, including presentations by committee and HECB staff.

Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee, 1:30 p.m., SHR 3 Public Hearing includes:

Report from HECB required by SB 5626 from 2002 session.

#### Thursday, Jan. 16, 2003

House Education Committee, 1:30 p.m., HHR A

Work Session on certificate of mastery and WASL implementation issues.

Senate Higher Education Committee, 10 a.m., SHR 3 (TVW)

Work Session:

- Higher Education leadership project w/ former Governors Evans and Gardner.
- HECB budget and revenue recommendations.
- Washington State Institute of Public Policy study of HECB.

House Appropriations Committee, 3:30 p.m., (TVW)

Public Hearing on governor's budget proposal for K-12 and Higher Education.

#### Friday, Jan. 17, 2002

House Higher Education Committee, 8 a.m., HHR D

Work Session and hearing on financial aid, including presentation by HECB.

# SWS schools have opportunity to return funds or request more

Next week, Board staff will send its January survey of expenditures to institutions participating in the State Work Study (SWS) program. This will be the first formal opportunity for institutions to report trends affecting their student-earning patterns for the 2002-03 academic year. Schools will also have the opportunity to request additional SWS funds or return funds their students will not be able to earn by June 30.

This survey provides the Board with critical information to project use of SWS funds and to make appropriate adjustments to ensure that the funds provide the greatest benefit to students. Staff will use the information provided in the trends part of the survey as a basis for fund management discussions at this winter's SWS regional meetings. Your care in completing the survey ensures that staff can manage SWS funds with the best information available.

# SNG schools may need to report receiving LEAP/SLEAP funds

Board staff sent a letter to financial aid directors at State Need Grant (SNG) participating schools advising them of the amount of 2001-02 SNG funding for their students that came from two federal programs: the Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership Program (LEAP) and the Special LEAP (SLEAP).

Aid directors were advised to share this letter with their business offices.

Federal law requires all non-public institutions to report disbursement of these federal funds on the Schedule of Federal Awards (SEFA). Public institutions apparently do not have to report these funds because the Board reports that portion of LEAP and SLEAP monies on its own SEFA.

For more information, contact Chris Leeper at <a href="mailto:chrisl@hecb.wa.gov">chrisl@hecb.wa.gov</a> or (360) 753-7840.